

### The Fisheries.

The Committee of the House of Assembly, Session 1854, "observe with pleasure that considerable improvement has taken place in the Provincial Fishery during the last year, and that if effectual protection be continued, this important branch of industry will ere long furnish a very valuable export." \* \* \* "In view of the signal benefit of protection, the committee recommend the House to grant for that purpose the sum of £3000, in addition to any sum remaining undrawn." \* \* \* "It appears that weirs in St. Mary's Bay are found to be destructive of the fishery. The committee recommend that the use of them should be prohibited or regulated."

Four hundred and fifty-five vessels—tonnage 16,276, men 3,355—cleared on a fishing voyage at the port of Halifax, and other ports in this Province, during the year 1853.

### Crown Land.

The gross proceeds of Crown Lands sold during the year ending December 31, 1853, appears to be, so far as we can understand the public accounts published, £8297 8s. Deduct expenses for Surveys, Postage, Printing, Advertising, Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner, Clerks' Salaries, money repaid to purchasers, &c., £2600 14s. 3d.; and the net surplus is £5696 13s. 9d. In the hands of Mr. Commissioner Morris, on the 1st October, 1853, there was £3067 1s. 4d. £2500 was paid over to the Receiver General. We suppose the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner have paid over this sum, £3196 13s. 9d., so credited, since the accounts were submitted to the Government.

The quantity of Land sold in 1853, to October 31st, was 301 lots, containing 37,142 acres. Immense quantities of Crown Lands are still unsold. Some thousands of Squatters have occupied large tracts also.

### Expenses on Public Buildings.

*Province Building.*—Upholsterer's bill, 237l. ; Founder's bill, for iron railings, Gothic registers, &c., 72l. 9s. 4d. ; Carpenter's work, 122l. 3s. 1d. ; Mason's work, 183l. 16s. 2d. ; Painter's work, 114l. 7s. 10d. ; 4 cast iron columns, &c, 39l. 5s. 0d. ; other accounts, 112l. 13s. 10d. ; for Report and Specification, 7l. 15s. ; Gas Company, 95l. 1s. 3d.—Total—986l. 0s. 1d.

*Government House.*—Carpenter's work, other labour, materials, including lumber, nails, locks, hinges, &c., 550l. 4s. 9d. ; Mason's work, 304l. ; Upholsterer's work, 171l. 1s. 8d. ; Painter and Glazier's work, 171l. 1s. 8d. ; Water Company's account for water, &c., 32l. 2s. 6d. ; sweeping chimneys, 10l. ; Blacksmith's work, 29l. 4s. 6d. ; Plumber's work, 70l. 9s. 8d. ; sundries to mechanics, laborers, and other accounts, 51l. 15s. 9d. Total—1344l. 9s. 6d.

*Penitentiary.*—1080l. 11s. 3d.

Total expenditure for 1853—3411l. 0s. 10d.

The Committee of Assembly very properly remarked : " Your committee have no reason to doubt the general correctness of the accounts ; yet, they think there would be a saving to the Province if the system of tender and contract were pursued in all large expenditures, when convenient and practicable."

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CR.—By cash  
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To the Honor  
to His Excellen  
we are indebted

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